

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

### I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 21-22 are currently pending. Claim 2 is hereby canceled. Claim 4 is independent. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 21-22 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

### II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting claim 4 recites allowable subject matter.

Applicants have put this application in condition for allowance by having all remaining claims depend from allowable claim 4.

### III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102 AND 103

Claims 2, 11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,715,323 to Walker; and

Claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable Walker and Common Knowledge (or Office Notice).

Applicants have put this application in condition for allowance by cancelling claim 2 and amending the remaining claims to depend from allowable claim 4. Thus, the above rejection of the claims is moot.

However, as a procedural matter, under MPEP 2144.03(C) Applicants challenge the factual assertions as not properly officially noticed or not properly based upon common knowledge. However, as discussed above, this issue is mooted by the amendments provided herein.

### **CONCLUSION**

Claims 3-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and 20-22 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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